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WEDNESDAY
January 1st, 1959
9:11 a.m.

TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE PRESIDENT

They discussed the Jan 10 note etc. The proposed treaty is in that - the Sec referred to it in his press conf yesterday. The Pres had only seen the gist of it. The Pres said isn't this a condition we would always have to sustain - that is the reunification must always be satisfactory to West Germany before we can agree to it because West Germany is free to make its own decisions. The Sec said that is in a way true but you have to be careful because we have always taken the position the Four Powers have the responsibility for the reunification of Germany. The Pres asked where that is stated - the Sec said it is inherent in the fact that we became the occupying powers and took over the sovereignty and the Directive of the Summit Mtg so states. We are making the point with the Soviets they cannot divest themselves of it. The Sec replied it was only written in July 1955 - not back in Yalta or Potsdam. The Sec said in view of our relations with the Fedrep we would never seek to impose terms that would be unacceptable but we still recognize we have responsibility - we divided and we put it together. The Pres said the Sec implied yesterday it has to be satisfactory to Germany. The Sec said he will ask LTM to come over to talk about this. The Pres thought the Sec was exactly right. This would be the way in which the Western democracies would settle such a thing but there may be ways that would be agreeable to Germany and therefore the Four Powers.

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